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thirteen passages where the word לִי occurs are collected in Sifre on Numbers xi. 16." The Sifre (§ 42, Friedmann's edition, 25 b) enumerates ten such passages. The correct reference would have been to Leviticus Rabba, ch. 2, § 2, where thirteen passages are indeed gathered; so also Tanchuma בְּהַעֲלֹתָךְ, ed. Buber, p. 20; Midrash Samuel, ch. 19, which fathers the saying on the Agadist Levi. I cannot comprehend why Dr. Königsberger in the same note adds מוֹכַח מִכֵּאֵן שֶׁלְבַעַל מִדְּרַשׁ הַגְּדוֹל הָיָה נוֹדֵעַ גַּם הַסְפְּרִי. Where was the need of proof that the compiler of Midrash Haggadol knew the Sifre, a position which the editor himself has already sufficiently established in his *Quellen der Halacha*, p. 115, where he states that the Midrash Haggadol borrows largely from the Sifre¹. Besides, he cannot use a passage incorporated in the Sifre *Zuta* as an argument that the compiler of the Midrash Haggadol had knowledge of the Sifre. It is hardly necessary to state that Dr. Königsberger's notes contain many invaluable observations and references. And still it is to be hoped that in the next parts these will decrease in volume, and thus the intrinsic value of the edition be enhanced. On account of the extreme importance of the Sifre for the investigation both of the Tannaite Midrash and Halacha, and of the sources of later works which have copiously borrowed from it, e. g. Bamidbar Rabba and Maimonides' Mishne Torah, Dr. Königsberger's edition should be most welcome. The industry, devotion, and intimate knowledge exhibited in this undertaking merit the approval and support of all friends of Jewish learning. May the editor's efforts to reconstruct out of existing fragments the literary memorials of the past be crowned with perfect success.

W. BACHER.

ARAMAIC PROVERBS.

Aramäische Sprichwörter und Volkssprüche von Dr. MOSES LEWIN.
(Frankfurt a. M. Kauffmann, 1895.)

DR. LEWIN has succeeded in writing a very readable and lucid essay, and has compressed an extraordinary amount of information into a small compass. His work is based on a clearly conceived plan. He restricts his attention to those proverbs found in the Talmud Babli which are in the pure Aramaic dialect. The language of these popular sayings is an eastern form of Mandaic, and was spoken in the high-

¹ Hoffman (*Hildesheimer Jubelschrift*, Berlin, 1890, page 85), however, assumes that the compiler did not know the Sifre on Numbers.

lands of the Tigris and Euphrates about the year 500. The collection is provided with an excellent set of notes, which have the merit of brevity and practical directness. Where possible, each proverb is followed by parallels from other languages. A list of authorities used is given on pp. 7-11, but in view of the grammatical introduction on pp. 22-28, it seems strange that no mention is made of *Die Neu-hebräische Sprache* by Strack and Siegfried. A few pages are devoted to the consideration of those words which in the cognate dialects appear in a different form, with concise comments on such variations. Dr. Lewin has classified the proverbs, the principle of division and subdivision being particularly neat and workmanlike. It will thus be evident that the arrangement of the book is devised in a manner well suited for the student's convenience. To ensure the correctness of the text, MSS. have been consulted. Abundant references are made to the *Variae Lectiones* by Rabinowitz, and by a judicious use of Wünsche's translation of the Agadic portions of the Talmud Babli, the renderings of the proverbs are as literal as is consistent with the preservation of the sense of the original. But in spite of all these merits it must be confessed that the essay, so full of good points, has one great failing, in that it is without vowel-points. The task of punctuation is probably not beyond Dr. Lewin, but it is very unfortunate for him that of the three words he *was* prompted to punctuate, one of them, on p. 48, is wrongly pointed and appears in the list of errata.

The scope of the essay and the method of treatment are so clearly stated at the beginning, that by omitting the vowel-points the author practically condemns his own work. Even if we ignore proverbs like No. 21, on p. 71, *הבא לטהר מסעין ליה*, and No. 22, on p. 72, *הבא לטמא מסעין ליה*, which are obviously *Hebrew-Aramaic* and not *pure Aramaic*, and are commonly cited in *Hebrew*, there are numerous others in this collection the inclusion of which as pure Aramaic expressions can only be justified by showing the punctuation. Several may be read quite easily as *Hebrew-Aramaic*, which possibility the author should have obviated by following the example of Dukes, and punctuating every word. If Dr. Lewin has included some Aramaic sayings which are omitted by Dukes, it must be remembered that, without any explanation, he has omitted some pure Aramaic proverbs included by Dukes. To sum up, Dr. Lewin's essay, however instructive, interesting, and useful, is by no means indispensable. A standard work on pure Aramaic proverbs has, therefore, yet to appear, and the writer of it will have to guard against the faults of both Dukes and Dr. Lewin, to supplement their omissions and to emulate their merits.

S. LEVY.